

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS MEPA/NEPA CHECKLIST

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This brief environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project sponsor has a responsibility to ensure that all impacts have been addressed. Some effects may be negative; others may be positive. Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development	<u> X </u>
Renovation	<u> </u>
Maintenance	<u> X </u>
Land Acquisition	<u> </u>
Equipment Acquisition	<u> </u>
Other (Describe)	<u> </u>

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

3. Name, address phone number, and E-mail address of project sponsor.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Parks Division

C/O Cathy Stewart

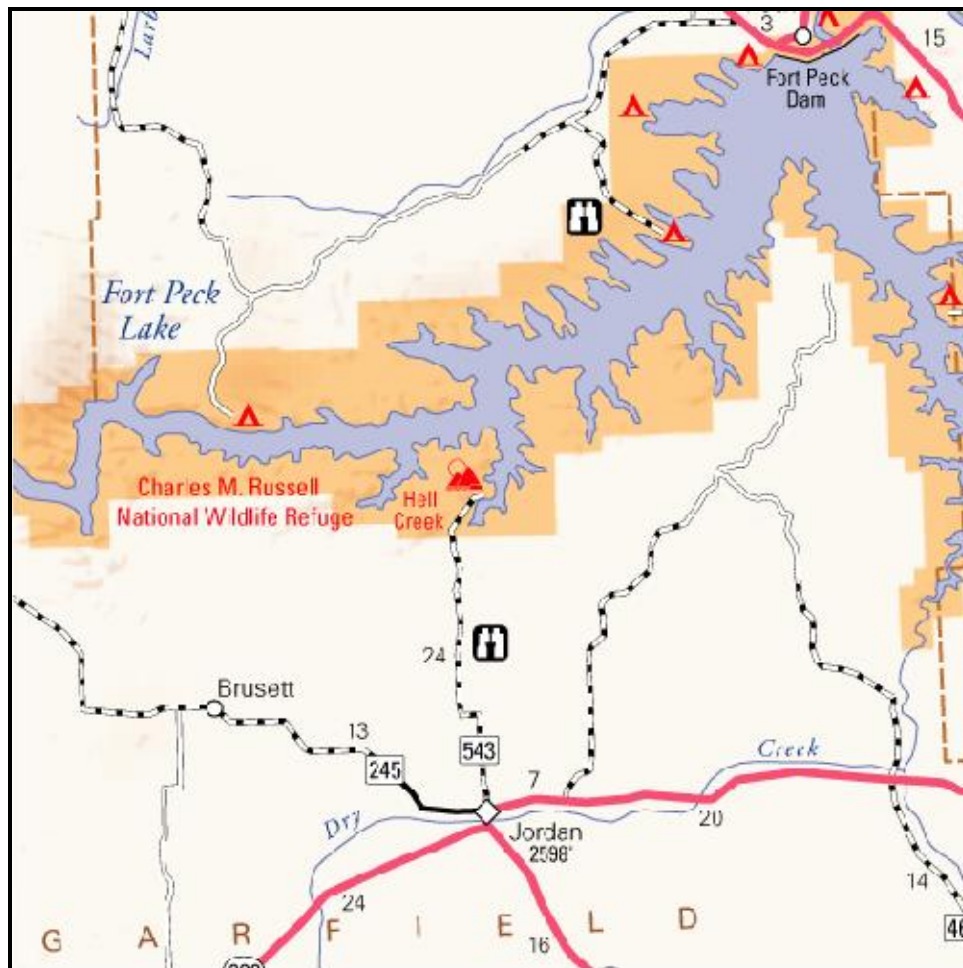
PO Box 1630

Miles City, MT 59301

406-234-0926

cstewart@mt.gov

4. Name of project.
Hell Creek State Park- Provide Electrical Service to existing Camp Loop and Upgrade the Existing Water System
5. If applicable:
Estimated construction/commencement date: September 2006
Estimated completion date: November 2006
Current status of project design (% complete) 85%
6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
Hell Creek State Park is located at T22N, R38E, S6; Garfield County.



7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential..... 0 acres
industrial..... 0 acres

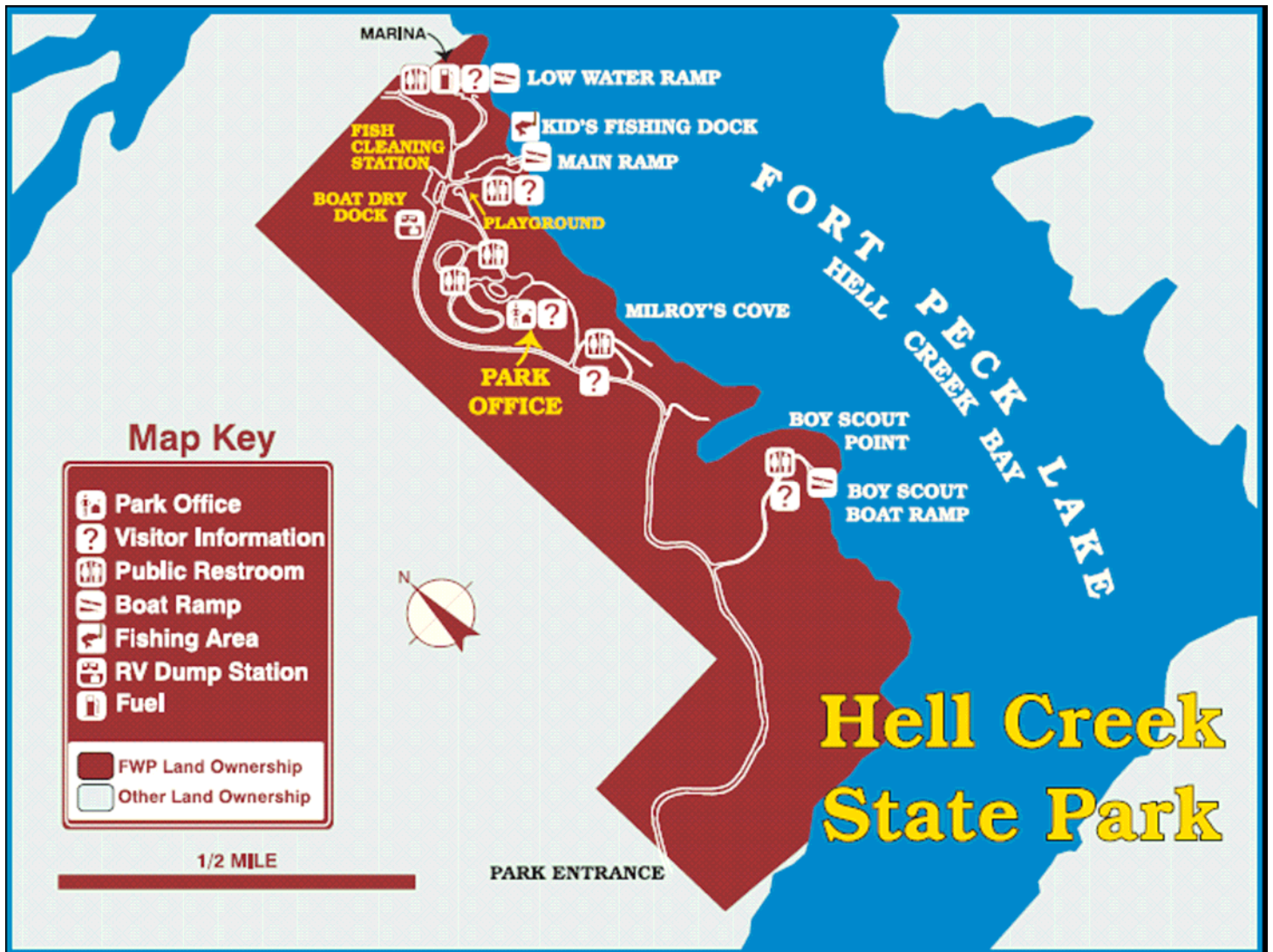
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation..... 1.5 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas..... 0 acres

(d) Floodplain 0 acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland 0 acres
dry cropland 0 acres
forestry 0 acres
rangeland 0 acres
other 0 acres

8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.



9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

BACKGROUND:

Hell Creek State Park, 26 miles north of Jordan, Montana, is located on the south shore of the 150 mile long Fort Peck Reservoir. Hell Creek is the closest access point on Fort Peck to the Interstate Highway system and Montana's major population centers. Due to this fact, the park serves as the major access point to the south shore of the reservoir for motor-boaters and motor-boating anglers. Efforts by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division, and Walleyes Unlimited of Montana in the mid-1980s resulted in a dramatic increase in both the size and number of walleyes in the reservoir. In the early 1990s, local anglers rediscovered Fort Peck, and within a few years, the word was out nationwide on this burgeoning walleye fishery. Park visitation increased from 9,300 visitors in 1995 to over 35,000 in 2003. These visitors come from the mid-western states, Colorado and all the larger cities and towns in Montana. Frequently, visitors stay in the park for a week or longer. In addition, many visitors boat from the park daily to the popular fishing areas. To keep up with the dramatic increase in visitors, Hell Creek State Park has under gone approximately \$2,000,000 in development projects over the course of the past six years. Approximately 75% of this funding has been cost shared by the Federal Wallop Breaux grant program due to the fact Hell Creek is recognized as a major motorboat site on Fort Peck Reservoir.

Among these recently completed projects are:

- Extension and expansion of boat launching facilities;
- Expansion of parking areas to accommodate vehicles with boat trailers;
- Potable water system with hydrants in the campground;
- Restroom/Shower facility;
- RV dump station;
- Fish cleaning station (cooperative project with Jordan Chapter, Walleyes Unlimited);
- Playground (cooperative project with Jordan Chapter Walleyes Unlimited);
- Renovation of group use shelter building;
- Reshaping and gravelling of 12 miles of the 26-mile long Hell Creek access road (cooperative project with Garfield County).
- Rehab/Upgrade of the camp pads
- Trees/Landscaping/Irrigation

Six years of drought has contributed to record low water levels at Fort Peck, leaving all existing boat ramps unusable along with the existing surface water system that supplies potable water for the park. To assure continued recreational access to the reservoir and water for the campground facilities, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers drilled a 1200' well in the fall of 2004 and constructed 1.25 miles of road along the beach of Hell Creek bay to a new boat ramp in spring 2005. The well provides water for the park until reservoir levels rebound to the point where the existing surface water system is again operational. The new boat ramp will serve the same purpose. Without operable boat launching facilities, visitation to the park would be virtually nonexistent.

Hell Creek State Park has seen a four-fold increase in visitation over the past seven years. In addition, the \$2,000,000 of improvement projects listed above is complete. These factors have resulted in the re-assignment of two maintenance and visitor service positions to Hell Creek and the hiring of a Park Manager to provide on site management during the spring, summer, fall, and potentially through the winter.

Along with the increase in visitation and park improvements, visitors are now often traveling from further distances with intentions of staying longer and therefore with higher expectations. Hell Creek State Park's users have gone from the traditional weekend anglers to entire families vacationing at the park for one to two weeks.

Over the last two years, comment cards have been provided to visitors at the Park. A noticeable number of them requested the electrification of camp loops. In sampling the comment cards, it was determined that 46 out of every 100-comment cards requested electrification of the camp loops.

PROPOSED PROJECT: Electrical Service to existing Camp Loop and Upgrade the Existing Water System.

Specifically, the proposed project will:

- Provide electrical service at the developed camp loops in the main campground. This would consist of (46) camp pads offering electrical service.
- Reduce generator use, which in turn will reduce noise in the campground.
- Rebury and extend new water lines into the campground, administrative area, and employee housing area.
- Install a lift station to the existing drain field.
- Replace existing wellhead

Electrification of the two camp loops would enable management of the park to meet visitor expectations and enhance the recreational experience for campers. During the extended periods of 100° + temperatures campers without generators would be able to use air conditioning, boat batteries would be able to be recharged, and many other uses and options now available in RV's would be available to our visitors. Modern motorhomes and campers are all equipped for electrical service. People do not typically travel to Hell Creek to tent camp; nine generators operating in a 30-unit campground are common and disruptive. A decrease in generator use is expected to reduce noise levels in the campground.

The proposed project will provide additional plumbing and electrical improvements to the existing potable water supply in order to meet federal and state regulatory requirements. The existing potable water supply well does not meet the requirements of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The existing PVC wellhead will be replaced with a steel wellhead and pitless adaptor. The new wellhead will prevent introduction of potential sources of contamination that could impact the well, and will help prevent the well and associated plumbing from freezing during winter use.

Two employee-housing units are proposed for Hell Creek in 2006. It is anticipated that the park manager will occupy the employee housing at a minimum during the fall and spring

shoulder seasons, and potentially through the winter. The existing water system is not designed for winter use and is drained and weatherized seasonally. The proposed improvements will include potable water piping from the existing well to the housing units. The proposed water supply system for the new housing units will include water line buried below the frost line and separate pressure tanks and controls from the existing seasonal water system.

Appendix A attached illustrates proposed developments and site locations.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

Alternative A: No Action

The alternative of no action will leave the park in its current state, which is functional, however not meeting the *visiting public's request for electrical service. Comment cards revealed the visiting public's desire for electrical service in addition to many verbal comments and conversations regarding the issue. The alternative of no action regarding the upgrade of the existing water system would leave the administrative and employee housing areas without running water. The existing potable water supply well does not meet the requirements of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Alternative B: Proposed Action

The proposed project will provide electrical service at the developed camp loops in the main campground. This would consist of (46) camp pads offering electrical service. This will reduce generator use, which in turn will reduce noise in the campground, and meet the public's expectations of the campground. The proposed project will rebury and extend new water lines into the campground, administrative area, and employee housing area, which will allow water to be used throughout the year. The proposed project will install a lift station to the existing drain field. Finally, the proposed project will install a new wellhead. This upgrade will improve the existing potable water supply in order to meet federal and state regulatory requirements.

11. Listing of each local, state, or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits		
Agency Name: Department of Labor, Building Codes Bureau	Permit: Electrical Permit	Date Filed:

(b) Funding	
Agency Name: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Funding Amount: Lic. Acct - \$25,000 ERA - \$25,000
Federal: W-B	\$150,000

Total - \$200,000

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name: Army Corps of Engineers	Type of Responsibility: Landowner

12. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:

Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Peck, Montana

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Parks Division Region 7
Wildlife Division Region 7
Fisheries Division Region 7
Design and Construction Bureau

Montana Department of Commerce—Tourism
PO Box 200533
1424 9th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Montana Natural Heritage Program—Natural Resources Information System
PO Box 201800
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-1800

State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
1410 8th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

13. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:

Cathy Stewart, Park Manager, Parks Division,
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks
P.O. Box 1630
Miles City, Mt. 59301
406-234-0926 cstewart@mt.gov

14. Date submitted.

June 21, 2006

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b.
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 1b. Electrification of camp loops, extending new water lines, installing the lift station, and installing a new well head will result in some disruption, displacement, compaction, and over-covering during the construction phase. Additionally, existing pioneered roadways will be eliminated and re-vegetated to natural condition.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))			X			2a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			2b.
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 2a. During construction equipment emissions will contain some pollutants.
- 2b. During construction equipment emissions will contain some odors. Following project completion, the reduction in use of gasoline-powered generators will reduce exhaust odors.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				1a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				
n. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 3a. None of the items addressed in this checklist would be applicable.
The reduction in use of gasoline-powered generators will result in reduced likelihood of gasoline or oil spills.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity, or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			x			4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?			x			4b.
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		x				4c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x			4e.
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		x				
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 4a. The project site plan calls for additional trees and shrubs to be planted.
- 4b. During the construction phase, plant communities will be disrupted in the site locations.
- 4c. None.
- 4e. There is a potential for importation of weeds onto disturbed soils. These soils will be revegetated. The site is already monitored for weeds.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?			X			5g.
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?		X				
j. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

5g. There is a potential for minor disturbance due to increased human activity. The proposed project is confined to developed camp loops and disturbance should be minimal.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				6a.
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 6a. None of the items addressed in this checklist would be applicable.
Electrical hookups in the campground should reduce noise from generators.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?		X				
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X			7f.
g. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

7f. May result in minor increase in the number of visitors to the Park who may stay for longer periods.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			8a.
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			X			See 8a.
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

8a. The project is designed to reduce the use of gasoline powered generators. This reduction will reduce the risk of explosions, spilling of oil/gasoline, and subsequent health hazards as a result.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				9a.
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

9a. None of the items addressed in this checklist would be applicable.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:			X			10a.
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?			X			10c.
d. Increased used of any energy source?			X			10d.
e. Other.						
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.	10f.					
g. Define projected maintenance costs.	10g.					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 10a. New electrical lines would be run from source to each individual electrical outlet.
- 10c. Electrical lines will be added.
- 10d. Slight increase in electrical consumption will be minor, subsequent reduction in gasoline use by elimination of generators.
- 10f. Funding will come from existing Montana State Parks proprietary sources and federal W-B funding. The scope of this project is contingent upon final approval by the USFWS.
- 10g. Projected maintenance costs will be absorbed into existing State Parks budgets.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		x				11a.
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		x				
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		x				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

- 11a. None of the items in this checklist would be applicable.
The project will reduce sound and exhaust odors from generators.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you

checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				12a.
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?		X				
e. Other:						

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

12a. The area is known for its paleontological resources, however, the sites identified for development are located on soils from a different geological formation thus eliminating any chance for disturbance of said sites.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				13a.
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.	State Building Code Permit					

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

13a. None of the items in this checklist are applicable.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.

The project is anticipated to have positive cumulative effects for the public. Increased visitor satisfaction with the service options state parks provides; reduced generator noise; address the requirements of new/modern motorhomes and travel trailers visitors are bringing to the park; boat charging issues. In addition, the proposed project will improve the existing potable water supply to meet federal and state requirements and allow water to be used throughout the year.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO ☒ _____

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

The current checklist level of review is appropriate because the project involves work inside a previously developed recreation area. The project will have no significant or long lasting impacts on water, air, human health etc...

3. Describe the public involvement for this project.

The EA will be put out for a public comment period by means of:

- The cover sheet with direct mailing to known and potentially interested members of the public, Governmental organizations, and others.
- Legal notices will be placed in the Jordan newspaper, the Billings Gazette, Helena Independent Record and the Miles City Star.
- The E.A. is available for public review and comment via the Fish, Wildlife and Parks website at <http://fwp.mt.gov>

4. What was the duration of the public comment period?

The public comment period will extend from June 21, 2006 through July 26, 2006.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Affected Environment – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

Alternative – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

Categorical Exclusion – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

Cumulative Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

Direct Impacts – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

Environmental Assessment Checklist – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

Environmental Review – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

Human Environment – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Long-Term Impact – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

Mitigated Environmental Assessment – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

Mitigation – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

No Action Alternative – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

Public Participation – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision-making.

Record of Decision – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

Scoping – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

Secondary Impacts – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

Short-Term Impact – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

Significance – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

Supplemental Review – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

Tiering – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.

Appendix A Site Plan

